



City of Aberdeen • 60 N. Parke Street, Aberdeen, MD 21001 • [www.aberdeen-md.org](http://www.aberdeen-md.org) September/October 2013

## MAYOR'S C O R N E R

This is a very exciting time and also a very reflective time of the year for most of us. For our students, school is back in session. The first several weeks of the school year are filled with meeting new teachers, reconnecting with old friends that haven't been seen all summer, fall sports kicking off and new subjects to learn about. From my school experience, I remember this time as being magical. We do ask drivers to be careful as students are not always respectful of vehicles as they walk to and from school. In addition, school bus routes have been reduced and more students will be walking rather than riding to school.

September is also a solemn month especially for those of us who have been firefighters. As we all remember twelve years ago this nation was attacked and almost 3,000 Americans were killed at the Pentagon, at the World Trade Center and on a field in western Pennsylvania. For those of us in the fire service we especially remember the brave firefighters, police and other emergency workers who were racing toward the World Trade Center in New York to rescue as many victims of the attack as they could. 411 emergency workers were killed in that attempt as those buildings collapsed upon them. Here in Aberdeen we are about to construct a memorial to our NYFD brothers, in Festival Park. Judy Hinch, Chuck Glassman and many other volunteers have been working to design the memorial and to also procure a piece of steel salvaged from the World Trade Center which will be incorporated into the memorial. Work will start soon on this tribute to those brave folks who risk their lives to protect us.

The 2014 legislative session in Annapolis is several months away, but preparation for that session has already begun. I have been appointed the Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Maryland Municipal League (MML). The committee is about thirty members strong with representation from cities and towns all over the state. Right now we are looking at the various legislative priorities that MML will get behind once the session starts. These priorities will be the primary focus of our efforts in

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## Back to School Safety Tips



**DRIVERS ALWAYS NEED TO PAY ATTENTION TO SCHOOL BUSES AND BUS CROSSINGS.**

### TIPS FOR WALKERS

The Aberdeen Police Department would like to remind drivers and pedestrians

to be extra careful when a new school year starts. We are asking students to be extra cautious when walking to and from school. Here are a few tips:

- Pay special attention to all traffic signals and crossing guards.
- Never cross the street against a red light, even if you don't see any traffic coming.
- Wear reflective clothing and bright colors so drivers can see you easier.
- Plan a safe walking route to school or the bus stop. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings and if possible, with intersections that have traffic controls.
- Advise children to arrive early for buses, stay out of the street, and to wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the street.

### TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Drivers also need to be very aware when school is back in session and children will be walking to and from schools and bus stops. As autumn approaches, there will be less daylight and children will be out early in the morning and more difficult to see.

- Be watchful around schools and bus stops for children running into the street.
- Watch for children entering the street from behind buses or running to catch the bus.
- When driving your children to school, deliver and pick them up as close to the school as possible. Don't leave until they are safely on school grounds.
- Drive slowly when approaching children riding bicycles and walking near the street.
- Watch your speed when entering school zones.

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January, but we will also react to bills and initiatives that could impact municipalities. Being on the legislative committee is a good deal of work, but it is also a great deal of fun.

Looking back to August, I'd like to thank all those that participated in the Cal Ripken World Series parade. Caroline Curry and her team did a wonderful job of organizing this great event along with our police department, who were superb hot dog grillers. Our neighbor and partner, Major General Ferrell of APG and his staff participated again this year which we very much appreciate. But I'd especially like to thank those citizens who came out to line the parade route and welcome the young athletes from all over the world who came to Aberdeen to play in the World Series. It was very heartwarming to see how we gave these guys such a warm reception.

Happy Fall and God Bless



Michael E. Bennett, Mayor

## AHS Girls State Basketball Champs!

Congratulations to the Aberdeen High School's girls' basketball team on being State Champs!

The ladies received their championship rings during the City Council Meeting on 8/26/2013. A special thank you to Saxon's Jewelers for your help with the purchase, design, and construction of these championship rings.



## In the Pipeline: SHA Sprucing Up Rt. 40

The State Highway Administration is beginning a new \$1.7 million project to improve a half mile stretch of Service Road along Rt. 40 from West Bel Air Avenue to Robinson Avenue. When done in the summer of 2014, we will have new paving, new sidewalks, drainage improvements and a prominent median. As with any project of this magnitude, there will be some inconvenience, but it will all be worth it in the end.

## New City Website

New City website coming soon! Navigate through our online system with ease. Site is expected to launch mid-September. If you have comments or suggestions for the new website, please email Felicia Bledsoe at [fbledsoe@Aberdeen-MD.org](mailto:fbledsoe@Aberdeen-MD.org).

### TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Supervise young children as they are walking or biking to school or as they wait at the school bus stop.
- Maryland's law (effective Oct. 2012) requires that children under 8yrs to ride in an appropriate child restraint, \*unless the child is 4'9" or taller.
- Child restraint includes car seats and booster seats and other federally approved safety devices.
- Every child from 8 to 16yrs who is not secured in a child restraint must be secured in the vehicle's seatbelt, in every seating position in the vehicle. This law is applicable to in-state and out-of state vehicles.
- It is the driver's responsibility for making sure all children are correctly buckled up.
- Children under the age of 16yrs may not ride in the bed of an unenclosed pick-up truck.
- Make sure that your teen driver understands and obeys all traffic laws. Discourage them from texting or talking on a cell phone while driving.

### TIPS FOR STUDENTS

- Always buckle up when riding in a car. Be sure to remove your backpack before getting in the vehicle. Never buckle your safety belt with your backpack on.
- Always ride in the back seat. It's the safest place for young people.
- If you ride a school bus, learn and practice the safety rules for waiting at the bus stop, getting on and off the bus, and riding the bus.
- Never wait for the school bus in the roadway.
- If you walk to school, learn and practice the safety rules for pedestrians. It's extremely important for you to use sidewalks when available, look left-right-left when crossing the road, and always walk facing traffic.
- Always cross at cross walks; obey all traffic signs, traffic lights and crossing guard instructions.
- Cross railroad tracks only at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings. Observe and obey all warning signs and signals.
- Do not walk, run or ride your bicycle down railroad tracks. It's illegal and dangerous.
- Be a good role model for your younger brothers, sisters and friends, and help them learn and follow vehicle safety rules

## Call For Volunteers

The City of Aberdeen depends a great deal on the fine volunteers that it has who work on boards, commissions and special committees. We have several vacancies on some of those commissions that need to be filled. In addition, we would like to create a list of Aberdeen residents who may want to serve in a volunteer capacity, even if there are no vacancies on our boards and commissions at present. Citizens who might be interested should contact Felicia Bledsoe for a volunteer form. Call 410-297-4212 or email at [fbledsoe@aberndeen-md.org](mailto:fbledsoe@aberndeen-md.org).



# Mayor and City Council Tour New ENR Plant

The City has spent over four years designing and building a major upgrade to its wastewater treatment plant. The new process is called ENR (Enhanced Nutrient Removal) which is the most advanced wastewater process used in Maryland. On August 12th, the Mayor and City Council toured the plant to view firsthand the upgrades that have been added and to see just how ENR actually works. The bottom line for the Chesapeake Bay is that our plant will now remove even more nitrogen and phosphorus which are two of the culprits responsible for the Bay's decline.

The ENR upgrade has been an expensive undertaking. The total cost is over twenty million dollars paid with both State funding and local funding. The sewer rate payer in Aberdeen has made a major financial contribution to this effort and will continue contribute in the foreseeable future. The Bay Restoration Fee that is on the quarterly water and sewer bills is money that we collect on behalf of the State that goes to the ENR upgrades of the sixty-seven major wastewater plants in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Also on the sewer bill is the ENR Fee which funds the City's portion of the upgrade. ENR is a proven and effective wastewater process, but it is also expensive. There are more pumps, motors and blowers that need to run. These need maintenance and additional electricity to make them work. All of this costs money which is paid through the sewer rate.

In the end, the ENR upgrade will contribute to the resurgence of the Chesapeake Bay, an effort well worth undertaking.

## Aberdeen Police Purchases New Patrol Car

The Aberdeen Police Department has purchased one new patrol car this year a 2013 Ford Taurus Police Interceptor. The Taurus has a standard V6 engine and is projected to get at least 20 percent better fuel efficiency than the 2010 Crown Victoria Police Interceptor. With excessive idling and hot-running engines a normal part of the workday, more efficient operation is a valuable asset and is equipped with an AWD (all-wheel-drive) system. The standard Personal Safety System employs a network of sophisticated sensors that control the operation of the vehicle's airbags and front safety belts. In the new Police Interceptor, these sensors have been programmed specifically to distinguish the difference between rounds being fired from a gun and the impact of a collision, so that airbags are not inadvertently deployed during a firefight. It's equipped with a massive 220-amp alternator to support police radios, computers, lights, video cameras, radar, printers and more. The trunk circulation fan pulls air from the cabin to the trunk, maintaining temperate conditions and helping to protect heat-sensitive electronic equipment stored in the trunk. A sliding electronics tray holds aftermarket communications equipment up and out of the way. And a lockable trunk vault securely stores contraband and other equipment.



## Going trick-or-treating?

- S** Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.
- A** Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- F** Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.
- E** Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.
- H** Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you. Always WALK and don't run from house to house.
- A** Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.
- L** Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.
- L** Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.
- O** Only walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.
- W** Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.
- E** Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.
- E** Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Don't stop at dark houses. Never accept rides from strangers.
- N** Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.

**Trick or treating hours: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

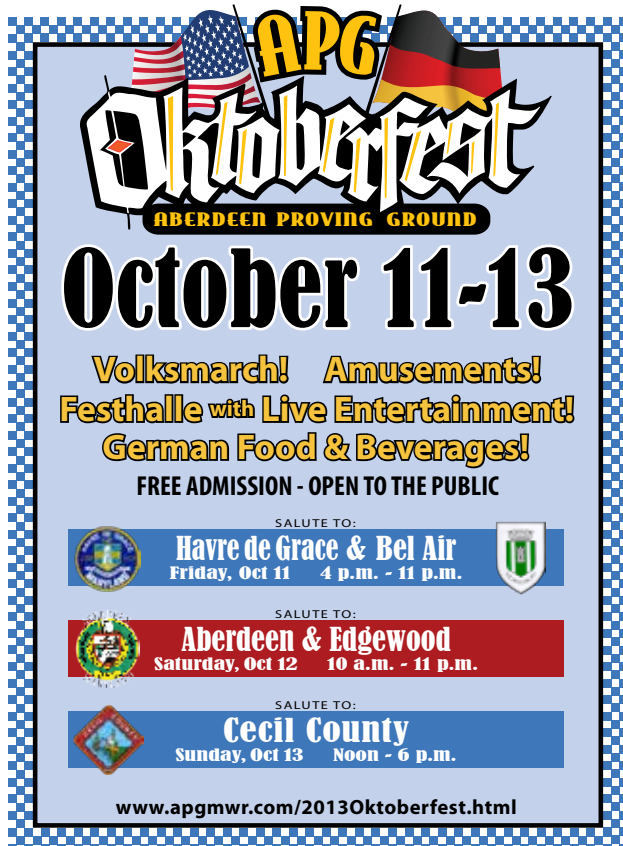
## Joe Swisher Retires

Joe Swisher who has served Aberdeen in the capacity of Planning and Zoning Committee Chairman has retired. He continues to serve as treasurer of the Aberdeen Heritage Trust where he is an innovative member. Joe and Sue Swisher are the parents of two daughters and have lived in Aberdeen for fifty years. Both Joe and Sue are very active in the Grace United Methodist Church and the Aberdeen Lions Club. Upon retiring from the Federal Government, Joe served on several non-profit boards and commissions. He produces and hosts a local TV show titled, "Historic Harford," which is shown on Harford Cable Network. Joe has co-authored books pertaining to the history of Antietam Maryland and Delaware. Joe loves and collects railroad memorabilia. Now he will have more time to expand his hobby. We applaud Joe's hard work and diligence on the Planning and Zoning Committee, and wish him the best upon his retirement.



City of Aberdeen  
60 North Parke Street  
Aberdeen, Maryland 21001  
(410) 272-1600

## September/October 2013 Edition of Opportuned-In Enclosed






**APG Oktoberfest**  
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND


**October 11-13**

**Volksmarch! Amusements!**  
**Festhalle with Live Entertainment!**  
**German Food & Beverages!**

**FREE ADMISSION - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**SALUTE TO:**  
 **Havre de Grace & Bel Air**  
Friday, Oct 11 4 p.m. - 11 p.m. 

**SALUTE TO:**  
 **Aberdeen & Edgewood**  
Saturday, Oct 12 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

**SALUTE TO:**  
 **Cecil County**  
Sunday, Oct 13 Noon - 6 p.m.

[www.apgmwr.com/2013Oktoberfest.html](http://www.apgmwr.com/2013Oktoberfest.html)

### The Development of Aberdeen: Evolutionary Time Line

- 1608 Captain John Smith explored the Chesapeake Bay.
- 1624 Settlement of the upper bay at Havre de Grace.
- 1652 Treaty with the Susquehannocks to give the lower Harford County area to the colony. Trading Post established on Bearson's Island (Spesutia).
- 1659 Baltimore County Established.
- 1774 Harford County created.
- 1830's Pennsylvania, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad (Later Pennsylvania RR)
- 1852 Edmund Law Rogers drew a plot of streets for community.
- 1855 Current center of Aberdeen purchased for \$9,633.
- 1867 Aberdeen known as a center for farm produce.
- 1891 Aberdeen's first bank, First National Bank, was organized on March 22.
- 1892 Novelty factory built.
- 1895 Aberdeen Can Company built.
- 1917 APG established during the latter part.
- 1918 Fire in January.
- 1919 First paving of streets began.
- 1921 Sewer lines installed.
- 1924 New electric system placed into operation.
- 1937 Dual U.S. Route 40, the General Pulaski Highway came through Aberdeen.
- 1933 The First National Bank of Aberdeen was the first to open after the bank holiday of 1933.